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25 FEB 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director for Planning and Coordination

SUBJECT: Coordination of Collection Requirements

REFERENCE: (a) Memorandum of Conversation, same subject, [REDACTED] 18 February 1955

(b) Memorandum, same subject, from SA/PC/DCI, 23 February 1955

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1. In response to your request in reference (b) for the views of this Office regarding the proposals in Tab B of the paper dated 4 February, I must point out that we have reservations regarding the workability and effectiveness of the proposals. We favor more participation by the substantive elements of intelligence producing offices in any coordinated effort to formulate improved guidance for collection activity. We recognize the complexity of the collection effort and believe that further coordination, if undertaken with discretion, might be beneficial.

2. We originally interpreted the proposal for an Intelligence Requirements Committee as being directed toward the problem of establishing priority requirements for collection. The procedures by which such a Committee would fulfill this task are not clear. In our mind, this Committee would be hard pressed to develop the competence necessary for advising intelligence producing components regarding their respective research and production programs. We feel that the National Intelligence Objectives provide the guidance necessary for the formulation of such programs within the appropriate components and specialized groups, such as the EIC, of the intelligence community. Coordinating groups for specific fields of interest are appropriate mechanisms for examining production capabilities and for initiating action to produce intelligence in response to priority objectives in their respective fields. Consolidated intelligence requirements formulated by an over-all Requirements Committee would not significantly increase the effectiveness of guidance for programming research and production.

3. To belabor a point made by you on 18 February, we agree that the intelligence production components and specialized groups, such as the EIC, in orienting their programs toward the National Intelligence Objectives, will provide requirements for collection which reflect the National Intelligence Objectives.

4. It seems to us that a Collection Committee, composed of responsible officials of the various collection agencies, might provide a useful mechanism in arranging for the placement of emphasis by these agencies toward fulfillment of priority collection requirements of recognized community interest. Responsible officers from the intelligence producing components and specialized groups could, when necessary, explain to this Committee problems in respect to the placement of their priority collection needs within the framework of the total collection effort of the community. The Committee could then examine existing collection capabilities and agree on specific collection actions by individual agencies.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
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